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Bureau of Agricultural Economics

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH CANADA
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C O N T E N T S

	Page
Introduction.....	1
Exports of Concession Items.....	4
Imports of Concession Items.....	6
Cattle.....	7
Cheese.....	8
Cream.....	9
Maple sugar.....	10
Seed potatoes.....	10
Poultry.....	11
Fruits and vegetables.....	11
Other products.....	11
Tabulations	
United States exports to Canada, January-June 1937 and 1938....	2
United States imports from Canada, January-June 1937 and 1938..	3
United States exports to Canada of agricultural commodities on which duties were reduced, January-June 1937 and 1938...	4
United States imports from Canada of agricultural commodities on which duties were reduced, January-June 1937 and 1938...	6
Cattle imports into the United States, by months, January-June 1937 and 1938.....	7
Cheddar cheese imports into the United States from Canada, by months, January-June 1937 and 1938.....	9
Cream imports into the United States, by months, January-June 1937 and 1938.....	9
Potato imports into the United States, by months, December-June 1936-37 and 1937-38.....	11

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH CANADA

United States agricultural exports to Canada and via Canadian ports in the first half of 1936⁸ reached a value nearly double that of the corresponding 1937 period and continued the upward trend in evidence since 1935. On the other hand, agricultural imports from Canada in the 1938 period represented little more than 15 percent of the comparable 1937 figures and were the smallest for any similar period in recent years.

A large portion of the current export figure is accounted for by an increase in United States exports in transit through Canada. This is especially true of grain exports. The larger export value reflects continued recovery from drought conditions in the United States, which has been accompanied by a larger volume of exports at lower unit prices.

Continued favorable United States production conditions have been largely responsible for reducing agricultural imports from Canada to more usual levels. A reduced consumer demand in the United States has also contributed to the smaller agricultural import trade this year.

On the export side, the principal trade developments have been:

1. A larger volume movement of United States fruits and vegetables to Canada with a total value somewhat lower than that of a year earlier.
2. A heavy increase in exports of grains, notably corn, to and through Canada.
3. A small increase in exports of meat and livestock to Canada.

On the import side, in addition to the virtual disappearance of duty-paid imports of Canadian wheat, the outstanding developments have been:

1. A sharp decline in cattle imports, as to both number and value.
2. Smaller imports of cheese, cream, and seed potatoes.
3. Smaller 1938 imports of practically all other agricultural items, reflecting the recovery of United States production in 1937.

The following tabulations give an analysis of the total trade between the United States and Canada for the first half of 1938 and the comparable periods of other recent years. The figures present a breakdown as to agricultural and nonagricultural products, and also as to agricultural products upon which each country granted duty reductions in the 1935 trade agreement and products not so affected. The text discusses in some detail the trend of the trade in items upon which both countries reduced their duties.

Table 1. UNITED STATES: Exports to Canada, January-June, 1935-1938

Classification	1935	1936	1937	1938 ^{a/}	Increase or decrease : 1938 from 1937
	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars
All commodities -					
First quarter.....	67,792	75,953	95,368	92,254	-3,114
Second quarter.....	83,283	99,018	138,327	141,690	+3,363
6 months.....	151,075	174,971	233,695	233,944	+249
Nonagricultural -					
First quarter.....	57,743	64,446	82,768	80,012	-2,756
Second quarter.....	72,787	85,116	121,367	99,742	-21,625
6 months.....	130,530	149,562	204,135	179,754	-24,381
Agricultural -					
First quarter.....	10,049	11,507	12,600	12,242	-358
Second quarter.....	10,496	13,902	16,960	41,948	+24,988
6 months.....	20,545	25,409	29,560	54,190	+24,630
Agricultural on which duties reduced under agreement -					
First quarter.....	3,562	4,451	5,500	6,844	+1,344
Second quarter.....	4,062	5,568	6,535	35,231	+28,696
6 months.....	7,624	10,019	12,035	42,075	+30,040
Other agricultural -					
First quarter.....	6,487	7,056	7,100	5,398	-1,702
Second quarter.....	6,434	8,334	10,425	6,717	-3,708
6 months.....	12,921	15,390	17,525	12,115	-5,410

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
^{a/} Preliminary.

Table 2. UNITED STATES: Imports from Canada, January-June, 1935-1938

Classification	1935	1936	1937	1938 ^{a/}	Increase or decrease : 1938 from 1937
	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars	Thousand : dollars
All commodities -					
First quarter.....	58,254	74,029	99,894	56,958	-42,936
Second quarter.....	71,690	85,791	109,102	57,383	-51,719
6 months.....	129,944	159,820	208,996	114,341	-94,655
Nonagricultural -					
First quarter.....	45,785	57,105	71,962	52,199	-19,763
Second quarter.....	55,263	66,769	83,902	53,824	-30,078
6 months.....	101,048	123,874	155,864	106,023	-49,841
Agricultural ^{b/} -					
First quarter.....	12,469	16,924	27,932	4,759	-23,173
Second quarter.....	16,427	19,022	25,200	3,559	-21,641
6 months.....	28,896	35,946	53,132	8,318	-44,814
Agricultural on which du- ties reduced under agreement ^{c/} -					
First quarter.....	2,136	3,693	6,562	2,668	-3,894
Second quarter.....	3,532	6,175	5,286	1,562	-3,724
6 months.....	5,668	9,868	11,848	4,230	-7,618
Other agricultural -					
First quarter.....	10,333	13,231	21,370	2,091	-19,279
Second quarter.....	12,895	12,847	19,914	1,997	-17,917
6 months.....	23,228	26,078	41,284	4,088	-37,196

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

^{a/} Preliminary.

^{b/} Does not include distilled liquors.

^{c/} 1935 figures including a few nonconcession items not separately classified prior to January 1, 1936.

The United States agricultural exports to Canada shown in table 1 reflect the generally increased purchases of such products by Canada this year. When adjustments are made for the in-transit movement of United States grain and grain products through Canada, however, the increase over 1937 in Canadian utilization is not nearly so large as the table indicates. At least \$22,000,000 worth of United States grains and grain products passed through Canada in the first half of 1938. Taking that figure into account, the total value of United States agricultural exports to Canada in 1938 comes to about \$32,000,000, an increase over 1937 of about \$2,500,000. Similarly, with respect to exports of items upon which Canada reduced its duties, the adjusted 1938 figure works out at about \$20,000,000, an increase over the comparable 1937 figures of about \$8,000,000.

Exports of Concession Items

The United States export record for the first 6 months of 1938 shows a total business in agricultural concession items valued at \$42,000,000, a figure about three and a half times as large as the comparable 1937 total. Much of the trade indicated for Canada was not for consumption in that country but represented exports en route to other countries via Canadian ports. The larger trade, however, reflects the definite recovery of United States agriculture from drought-induced short supplies and the resulting relatively high prices. Canadian participation in the larger United States export trade is reflected in the increases shown over the 1937 record by the 1938 figures for Canadian imports for consumption.

In the first half of 1938, Canada imported nearly \$9,000,000 worth of grain and grain products from the United States against corresponding 1937 imports valued at about \$900,000. Nearly half of the increase was in the form of wheat, with barley showing the next largest increase. Corn, oats, and cleaned rice also moved into Canada in considerably larger quantities this year than last. The corn retained by Canada, however, represents only a small part of the in-transit corn trade recorded as United States exports to Canada.

The Canadian import record for fresh fruits and vegetables checks closely with the United States export figures. A somewhat lower level of prices this year than last has prevented increases in trade value comparable with increases in volume. Citrus fruits provide a good example of that situation. As regards apples and pears, however, Canada bought less this year than last. There was an increase in takings of dried fruit, but Canadian purchases of United States canned fruit this year have been below the 1937 level both as to quantity and value.

On livestock and meats, also, lower 1938 prices have caused United States export values to lag behind volume. Total meat exports to Canada, for example, increased by volume in 1938 by 87 percent over 1937 figures. The increase in value, however, amounted to only 54 percent. Exports to Canada of other animal products were smaller this year than last in both volume and value. The current decline in that group included eggs in the shell and lard.

Table 3. UNITED STATES: Exports to Canada of agricultural commodities on which duties were reduced, January-June, 1937 and 1938

Commodity	Unit	Quantity		Value	
		1937	1938 a/	1937	1938 a/
				1,000	1,000
				dollars	dollars
Animals -					
Horses, excluding for breeding....	Head	225	63	46	14
Live poultry.....	Thousand lb.	14	25	8	11
Other.....		-	-	254	285
Total animals.....		-	-	308	310
Meats -					
Pork, pickled or salted.....	Thousand lb.	875	1,211	108	120
Pork, cured b/.....	do	179	927	37	118
Pork, canned.....	do	21	14	9	5
Pork, fresh.....	do	22	194	2	24
Other meats.....	do	222	222	48	48
Total meats.....	do	1,319	2,468	204	315

Continued -

Table 3. UNITED STATES: Exports to Canada of agricultural commodities on which duties were reduced, January-June, 1937 and 1938, cont'd

Commodity	Unit	Quantity		Value	
		1937	1938 a/	1937	1938 a/
				1,000	1,000
				dollars	dollars
Other animal products -					
Lard (including neutral lard).....	Thousand lb.	1,449	655	181	58
Sausage casings.....	do	233	362	84	115
Eggs in shell.....	Thousand doz.	17	12	10	8
Miscellaneous.....		-	-	1	5
Total other animal products.....		-	-	276	186
Grains and grain products -					
Corn and cornmeal c/.....	Thousand bu.	29	39,504	71	23,807
Rice, cleaned.....	Thousand lb.	2,801	5,324	105	148
Wheat and wheat flour d/.....	Thousand bu.	282	4,146	337	3,968
Biscuits, unsweetened.....	Thousand lb.	659	983	71	101
Hominy and corn grits.....	do	4,817	5,545	137	88
Others.....		-	-	383	3,384
Total grains and grain products.....		-	-	1,104	31,496
Vegetables -					
Potatoes.....	Thousand lb.	13,586	16,438	224	281
Other fresh vegetables.....		-	-	3,193	3,268
Canned vegetables.....		-	-	47	52
Dried vegetables.....		-	-	115	121
Vegetable preparations.....		-	-	85	105
Total vegetables and vegetable preparations.....		-	-	3,664	3,827
Fruits and fruit preparations -					
Oranges e/.....	Thousand box	942	1,925	3,086	2,480
Grapefruit.....	do	396	447	827	740
Apples and pears f/.....	Thousand lb.	10,184	6,079	355	114
Other fresh fruit.....		-	-	878	810
Dried and evaporated fruit.....	do	2,538	3,004	204	198
Canned and preserved fruit.....	do	3,490	1,192	292	102
Total fruit and fruit preparations.....		-	-	5,642	4,444
Nuts, excluding peanuts.....	Thousand lb.	365	582	139	153
Molasses.....	Thousand gal.	78	1,252	18	84
Sirup, including maple.....	do	80	135	50	44
Malt extract and sirup.....	Thousand lb.	75	51	6	4
Fruit juices.....	Thousand gal.	354	614	199	313
Field and garden seeds.....	Thousand lb.	1,774	1,790	224	197
Nursery and greenhouse stock.....		-	-	186	182
Miscellaneous items.....		-	-	15	520
Total.....		-	-	12,035	42,075

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

a/ Preliminary.

b/ Includes hams and shoulders, bacon and Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

c/ Cornmeal converted at the rate of 4 bushels of corn to 1 barrel of meal.

d/ Wheat flour converted at the rate of 4.7 bushels of wheat to 1 barrel of flour.

e/ January to April, free entry having been granted for those months only.

f/ Apples converted at the following rates: 48 pounds to the basket, 44 pounds to the box, 140 pounds to the barrel.

Imports of Concession Items

Imports from Canada in the first half of 1938 of items upon which the United States granted duty reductions in the 1936 agreement reached a value \$4,230,000. That figure represented a decline of about 64 percent from the unusually large 1937 imports, and also a reduction of 25 percent below figures for the pre-agreement year 1935. In most cases, the lower value of imports was accompanied by a volume of trade smaller than that of 1937. The figures in table 4 illustrate the decline in imports of this group of commodities.

Table 4. UNITED STATES: Imports from Canada of agricultural commodities on which duties were reduced, January-June, 1937 and 1938

Commodity	Unit	Quantity		Value	
		1937	1938 a/	1937	1938 a/
				dollars	dollars
Cattle -				1,000	1,000
Weighing less than 175 pounds...	1,000 head	57	28	869	424
Dairy cows.....	do	3	3	173	168
Weighing 700 pounds or more....	do	85	22	6,115	1,347
Total cattle.....	do	145	53	7,162	1,939
Poultry -					
Live.....	1,000 lb.	872	546	137	90
Dead chickens and guineas.....	do	20	1	4	b/
Total poultry.....	do	892	547	141	90
Horses worth not over \$150 each...	1,000 head	7	4	891	454
Dairy products -					
Cheddar cheese.....	1,000 lb.	2,778	911	417	149
Cream.....	1,000 gal.	56	4	85	7
Total dairy products.....		-	-	502	156
Cereal breakfast foods.....	1,000 lb.	406	302	42	32
Hay.....	1,000 tons	132	11	975	85
Oats, unfit for human consumption:	1,000 bu.	b/	0	b/	0
Vegetables -					
Turnips and rutabagas.....	1,000 lb.	51,772	46,561	382	362
Seed potatoes (white).....	do	35,940	27,870	675	293
Peas, green c/.....	do	0	0	0	0
Total vegetables.....		-	-	1,057	655
Fruits -					
Blueberries, frozen.....	1,000 lb.	56	439	5	27
Apples.....	1,000 bu.	17	b/	32	b/
Other.....		402	156	27	15
Total fruits.....		-	-	64	42
Grass and other forage seeds -					
Timothy.....	1,000 lb.	18	27	1	1
Canada blue grass.....	do	72	114	11	11
Other.....	do	5,562	4,220	683	533
Total grass, etc.	do	5,652	4,361	700	545
Maple sugar.....	do	1,968	1,449	314	232
Total.....		-	-	11,848	4,230

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

a/ Preliminary. b/ Less than 500. c/ Duty reduced only from July 1 to September 30.

Cattle

The smaller imports of cattle this year have included a considerably larger proportion of light-weight animals than in the other recent years of relatively large imports. The composition and reduced volume of this year's imports reflect the current United States cattle situation. Domestic inspected slaughter has run about the same as that of a year ago, but supplies of well-finished cattle have been larger than in 1937. Hog slaughter also has been larger than last year, while consumer demand for meat, especially beef, has been weaker than in 1937. These factors largely account for the generally lower fed-cattle prices recorded for 1938.

Table 5. CATTLE: Imports into the United States, by months, January-June, 1937 and 1938

Origin, year, and month	700 pounds and over			Under 700 pounds			Total dutiable cattle
	Dairy	Other	Total	Under 175:175-699		Total	
				pounds	pounds		
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
CANADA							
1937 -							
January...	460:	21,536:	21,996:	4,190:	1,143:	5,333:	27,329
February...	363:	14,120:	14,488:	6,500:	343:	6,843:	21,331
March.....	534:	14,150:	14,684:	7,064:	554:	7,618:	22,302
April.....	586:	11,152:	11,738:	9,849:	439:	10,288:	22,026
May.....	489:	12,710:	13,199:	15,007:	1,047:	16,054:	29,253
June.....	574:	11,098:	11,672:	14,668:	2,383:	17,051:	28,723
6 months..	3,011:	84,766:	87,777:	57,278:	5,909:	63,187:	150,964
1938 -							
January...	428:	3,861:	4,289:	3,830:	112:	3,942:	8,231
February...	509:	2,102:	2,611:	3,694:	164:	3,858:	6,469
March.....	386:	8,203:	8,589:	5,338:	301:	5,639:	14,228
April.....	296:	4,597:	4,893:	7,013:	418:	7,431:	12,324
May.....	339:	2,524:	2,863:	2,700:	636:	3,336:	6,199
June.....	709:	1,192:	1,901:	5,461:	660:	6,121:	8,022
6 months..	2,667:	22,479:	25,146:	28,036:	2,291:	30,327:	55,473
MEXICO							
1937 -							
January...	0:	6,327:	6,327:	18:	16,425:	16,443:	22,770
February...	0:	3,475:	3,475:	70:	17,990:	18,060:	21,535
March.....	0:	4,352:	4,352:	156:	22,065:	22,221:	26,573
April.....	0:	3,549:	3,549:	255:	30,062:	30,317:	33,866
May.....	0:	4,841:	4,841:	13:	35,035:	35,048:	39,889
June.....	0:	986:	986:	686:	10,937:	11,673:	12,659
6 months..	0:	23,530:	23,530:	1,198:	132,564:	133,762:	157,292
1938 -							
January...	0:	4,213:	4,213:	58:	9,855:	9,913:	14,126
February...	0:	2,264:	2,264:	49:	14,764:	14,813:	17,077
March.....	0:	3,972:	3,972:	87:	24,272:	24,359:	28,331
April.....	0:	9,265:	9,265:	796:	66,622:	67,418:	76,683
May.....	0:	4,860:	4,860:	756:	36,351:	37,107:	41,967
June.....	0:	1,054:	1,054:	119:	7,308:	7,427:	8,481
6 months..	0:	25,628:	25,628:	1,865:	159,172:	161,037:	186,665

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The lower current prices of heavy cattle in the United States together with the relatively high prices prevailing in Canada, account for the smaller receipts of heavy Canadian cattle at American markets. United States prices of stocker and feeder cattle, however, have been maintained at levels close to those of 1937. Considerably lower feed prices this year have stimulated purchases of light cattle for feeding. This situation has been important in the movement of full-duty, light-weight cattle out of Mexico. It has figured also in the Mexican exports of quota cattle.

Total receipts of live cattle from Canada and Mexico reached 242,000 head for the first 6 months, against 308,000 head in the corresponding 1937 period. Receipts from Canada of all types have been little more than one-third as large as in the first half of 1937. Imports from Mexico in the January-June 1938 period were about 20 percent larger than in 1937, with most of the gain occurring in full-duty, non-quota cattle weighing less than 700 pounds. Combined imports of Canadian and Mexican cattle to June 30 this year represented 61,500,000 pounds of beef, dressed-weight basis, against 93,600,000 pounds in the first half of 1937.

Utilization of the low-duty import quota for cattle weighing 700 pounds or more had reached only 34.5 percent of the total allowance by July 30 against 85.5 percent a year earlier. This year, 54,136 head of heavy quota cattle were received in the first 7 months against 140,241 last year. Canada sent less than half of the smaller 1938 imports, whereas in the first 7 months of 1937 Canada accounted for about 82 percent of these imports. The average live weight of the quota cattle received from Canada this year was 1,083 pounds, against 1,030 pounds in 1937. This year's quota imports from Mexico have made about 782 pounds average weight, against 791 pounds in 1937.

Cheese

Imports of Cheddar cheese from Canada, at 911,000 pounds, were 67 percent smaller than in the first 6 months of 1937. The 1938 figures marked a continuation of the downward import movement in evidence during 1937. Domestic production of Cheddar in the first half of 1938 showed an increase of 15 percent over the corresponding 1937 figures. Imports in 1937 represented 0.98 percent of production for the whole calendar year, and 1.16 percent for the first 6 months. In the first half of 1938, imports represented only 0.33 percent of production. Wisconsin prices of American Cheddar in 1937 averaged higher than in any year since 1930. Prices in the first half of 1938, however, averaged about 13.5 cents per pound for twins on the Wisconsin Cheese Exchange, a decline of about 12 percent from comparable 1937 levels. The lower prices this year represent the results of increased production coupled with a reduced consumer demand.

So far this year, Canadian and British markets for Canadian cheese have been considerably more attractive than has the United States market. Moreover, Canadian cheese has been in a stronger statistical position this year than last. Production in Ontario, the leading producing Province, for the first 6 months of 1938, at 27,400,000 pounds, was 3,100,000 pounds smaller than in the comparable 1937 period. Exports to the United Kingdom in the first 6 months of 1938 were 5.4 percent larger than in the first half of 1937. Meanwhile, cheese prices at Toronto so far this year,

averaging about 15.4 cents, have been higher than at any time in the past 5 years, and at about the same level as the United States prices of a year ago. The current Canadian average represents an advance of about 12 percent over the comparable 1937 average, according to figures released by the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Table 6. CHEDDAR CHEESE: United States production and imports from Canada, by months, January-June, average 1925-1929, annual 1937 and 1938

Month	Average 1925-1929			1937			1938 a/		
	Percent:			Percent:			Percent:		
	Produc-	Imports:	imports:	Produc-	Imports:	imports:	Produc-	Imports:	imports:
	tion	from	are of	tion	from	are of	tion	from	are of
	: Cana-	: produc-	: tion	: Cana-	: produc-	: tion	: Cana-	: produc-	: tion
	: 1,000	: 1,000	:	: 1,000	: 1,000	:	: 1,000	: 1,000	:
	: pounds:	: pounds:	Percent:	: pounds:	: pounds:	Percent:	: pounds:	: pounds:	Percent:
January...	18,190:	467:	2.57	27,346:	396:	1.45	28,418:	102:	0.36
February..	18,717:	284:	1.52	26,627:	529:	1.99	29,295:	109:	0.37
March....	23,128:	337:	1.46	31,359:	886:	2.83	36,902:	380:	1.03
April....	27,809:	328:	1.18	37,150:	331:	0.89	44,451:	204:	0.46
May.....	38,224:	424:	1.11	54,297:	212:	0.39	66,922:	64:	0.10
June.....	46,061:	756:	1.64	62,733:	425:	0.68	68,590:	52:	0.08
6 months:	172,129:	2,596:	1.51	239,512:	2,779:	1.16	274,578:	911:	0.33

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
a/ Preliminary.

Cream

Imports of Canadian fluid cream, at 4,300 gallons for the first 6 months of 1938, represented less than 8 percent of the comparable 1937 imports. The annual low-duty quota for cream was set in the trade agreement at 1,500,000 gallons. United States prices of milk and butterfat this year have been lower than during the first half of 1937, and the export business in cream has been less attractive than formerly to the relatively few Canadian producers shipping to New England markets. In the period March-June of this year, no cream from Canada and only a few gallons from other countries appeared in the United States record of imports.

Table 7. CREAM: Imports into the United States from Canada and total imports, January-June, 1937 and 1938

Month	1936		1937		1938 a/	
	Canada	Total	Canada	Total	Canada	Total
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
	:	:	:	:	:	:
January.....	10:	10:	5,420:	5,494:	3,550:	3,554
February.....	246:	248:	3,780:	3,899:	750:	755
March.....	1,035:	1,035:	6,822:	6,909:	0:	80
April.....	2,012:	2,043:	4,919:	4,919:	0:	63
May.....	1,620:	1,761:	13,254:	13,256:	0:	95
June.....	1,132:	1,136:	22,199:	22,244:	0:	66
6 months.....	6,055:	6,233:	56,394:	56,721:	4,300:	4,613
	:	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
a/ Preliminary.

Maple sugar

The imports of maple sugar during the first half of 1938 amounted to 1,449,000 pounds, a decline of 26 percent below the comparable 1937 imports. The smaller 1938 figures represent a continuation of the downward tendency noted in the 1937 imports as against those of 1936, and also reflect a slower rate of utilization by tobacco manufacturers, the chief consumers of maple products. Canadian export records show that 3,218,000 pounds of maple sugar were exported to the United States in the period January-June 1938 against 616,000 pounds a year earlier. Under the usual procedure, a large share of the imported supplies is stored under bond near the point of consumption. The smaller import figures for this year, therefore, represent a slower rate of withdrawal from bond for consumption, chiefly in tobacco factories. Imports of sirup, at low levels since the duty has been 4 cents per pound on both sugar and sirup, have been considerably smaller this year than last. United States production of maple products for the 1938 season amounted to over 22,000,000 pounds in terms of sugar, according to preliminary figures. The general trend of production has been downward during the past decade, and the current figures are the largest since the output of 28,720,000 pounds recorded for 1935. The larger imports of 1936-1938 have been accompanied by an upward trend in prices paid to domestic producers. Average maple sugar prices in the 1938 season, at 28.3 cents per pound, were 0.7 cent lower than the 1937 average, which was the highest since the unusually high point of 30.1 cents reached in 1930. The 1938 average for sirup, however, exceeded the 1937 average slightly to reach \$1.62 per gallon, the highest seasonal average price for sirup recorded since 1931.

Seed potatoes

The import-quota year for certified seed potatoes opens on December 1. From that date in 1937 to June 30, 1938, United States imports of certified seed, all from Canada, reached 506,000 bushels, down nearly 17 percent from the comparable 1936-37 figures. The Canadian acreage passing field inspection in 1937 reached nearly 26,000 acres, which produced about 5,500,000 bushels of certified seed. The figures were the largest since 1931, when 32,500 acres produced 6,200,000 bushels of certified seed. Most of the increased production in 1937 was in Green Mountain seed. Production of all seed in the years between 1931 and 1937 ranged from 3,100,000 to 4,300,000 bushels annually.

Preliminary figures place the United States crop of certified seed for 1937 at 15,395,000 bushels, the largest on record and about 4,300,000 bushels larger than the 1936 crop. Production in Maine last year reached 8,520,000 bushels, a record figure for that State.

The large 1937 crop of both seed and table stock in the United States resulted in lower prices throughout the 1937-38 season. When sales of the 1937 crop of certified Cobblers got under way in mid-November 1937, a price range of 73-82 cents per 100-pound sack was established for prompt shipment. The corresponding 1936 price was \$1.93-\$2.00. As the 1937-38 season advanced, prices tended to rise, with Cobblers making as high as high as 91 cents in mid-April 1938. In the 1936-37 season, the price trend

was downward, but the mid-April 1937 price range for Cobblers, at \$1.60-\$1.83, was from 89 to 92 cents per 100 pounds above the comparable 1938 price level.

Table 8. POTATOES: Imports into the United States from Canada and total imports, December-June 1936-37 and 1937-38

Month	1936-37			1937-38 a/		
	Certified:	Total		Certified:	Total	
	seed b/			seed b/		
	Canada c/	Canada	Total	Canada c/	Canada	Total
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
December.....	8,405	64,453	67,892	41,789	41,885	43,918
January.....	8,291	102,967	115,869	6,558	6,558	25,731
February.....	8,765	58,047	76,556	9,619	9,756	14,355
March.....	367,717	401,136	410,610	356,389	356,389	356,389
April.....	134,014	155,505	162,366	62,371	62,371	63,759
May.....	77,054	89,557	90,149	27,712	27,712	28,484
June.....	3,158	18,027	18,027	1,856	1,858	1,901
7 months...	607,404	902,722	941,469	506,294	505,529	534,537

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

a/ Preliminary.

b/ Quota year begins December 1.

c/ Canada supplied all imports.

Poultry

The sharp upturn of 1937 in imports of live poultry from Canada was not carried into 1938, despite somewhat higher United States prices this year. Imports in the first 6 months of 1938 were 37 percent lower in volume and 34 percent lower in value than the imports of the corresponding 1937 period. The relatively higher value of imports this year probably reflects the somewhat higher level of farm prices of poultry in the country during 1938. The tendency to exceed last year's prices has been especially noticeable in the New England and Middle Atlantic States.

Fruits and vegetables

The decline in the 1938 imports of fruit items upon which the United States granted concessions resulted in a drop of 34 percent from 1937 figures in the value of such imports. Frozen blueberries constituted the only important fruit item to register a substantial gain in the imports for 1938. Imports of turnips were maintained at levels not much under those of 1937. The annual concession duty on green peas does not become effective until July 1; consequently, the lack of imports in the first half of the year is not surprising. Canada, however, failed to ship any peas during the reduced-duty period of 1937.

Other products

Imports of grass and forage seeds so far this year have been under the 1937 figure by 22 percent in both volume and value. Timothy

and Canada bluegrass were received in quantities somewhat larger than in 1937, but these items were a small part of total imports. Imports of hay also have been smaller this year, the decline being another reflection of the United States recovery from drought conditions.